



**FREDERICTON
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**
— The Voice of Business —

364 York Street, Suite 200
Fredericton, NB
E3B 3P7



17 April 2019

Hon. Trevor Holder, Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour
Chestnut Complex
P. O. Box 6000
Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1

Via email: trevor.holder@gnb.ca

Re: Reductions to Workforce Development Programs

Dear Minister Holder:

I am writing today to inquire about your government's rationale and plans regarding the reduction of "employment development" programs in the 2019-2020 NB budget from \$25.25 million to \$13.58 million.

Our chamber was pleased with the budget direction overall, particularly Minister Steeves' recognition that the province must have a strong private sector, it must be an attractive location for investment dollars, and it must be fiscally responsible to make it happen. The transparency measures promised in this budget are also part of the fiscal responsibility needed – that includes more detailed quarterly reporting and an increase to the auditor general's budget.

However, it is also important that the reasons for reductions or increases in the budget are well understood by those affected so that more New Brunswickers can support the fiscal restraint trajectory of your government's first budget. Many of our members expand their workforce through assistance from your department and are concerned that those tools for growth may be eliminated.

Were those funds previously being used? If so, what evidence was used to make the decision to reduce the budget?

Sincerely,

Krista Ross, CEO
Fredericton Chamber of Commerce



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